

REMARKS

Claims 5, 6, 8, 10 - 12, 14, 16, 18 - 19, 26, and 28 are pending. Claims 5, 10, 14, 16, and 26 have been amended. Claims 1 - 4, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, 20 - 25, and 27 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the March 1, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 9, 13, 15, 20, 25, and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants amended the independent base claims to incorporate the limitations of the allowable claims. Specifically, independent claim 5 was amended to incorporate allowable claim 9's limitation. Independent claim 10 was amended to incorporate allowable claim 13's limitation. Independent claim 14 was amended to incorporate allowed claim 15's limitation. Independent claim 16 was amended to incorporate claim 17's limitation and allowable claim 20's limitation. Independent claim 26 was amended to incorporate allowable claim 27's limitation. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 10, 14, 16, and 26 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 6, 8, 11 - 12, 18 - 19, and 28 depend, directly or indirectly, on independent claims 5, 10, 16, and 26. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 8, 11 - 12, 18 - 19, and 28 are also in condition for allowance.

In the March 1, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 8, 10 - 12, 14, 16 - 18, 21 - 23, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,675,865 to Yoshida ("the Yoshida reference") in view of U.S. Patent


No. 6,467,527 to Kubota, et al. ("the Kubota reference"). The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yoshida reference in view of the Kubota reference and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,072,275 to Jondrow ("the Jondrow reference"). Applicants have cancelled claims 1 - 4, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, 20 - 25, and 27.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

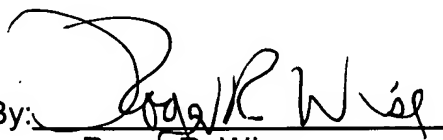
Respectfully submitted,

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